

REMARKS

Claims 20-40 were pending. Claim 32 has been cancelled. Claims 20-22, 25-31, and 38-39 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 20-31 and claims 33-40 remain pending subsequent this amendment.

Applicant has amended each of claims 20, 22 and 31 to address the examiner's comments regarding antecedent basis. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections are overcome.

In addition to the above, claims 20-24, 29, 31-34 and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,163,345 (hereinafter "Noguchi"), in view of newly cited Cleron, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,223,213 (hereinafter "Cleron"). Claims 25-28, 30, 35-36 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi and Cleron, in view of well known art. Applicant traverses these rejections. However, amendments to the claims are provided herein in order to further clarify Applicant's invention.

As amended, claim 20 recites a number of features which are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, either singly or in combination. For example, claim 1 recites a method which includes:

“determining whether the received e-mail message corresponds to a one-touch e-mail message type, wherein said determining comprises: parsing the received e-mail message prior to displaying the received e-mail message; and
detecting whether the received e-mail message includes a demarcation which distinguishes one-touch e-mail message types from non-one-touch e-mail message types.”

None of the cited art teaches or suggests the above features. With respect to prior claim 1, paragraph 7 of the present Office Action cites Noguchi, Figure 12D and col. 9, lines 1-34 as including teaching “*determining whether said received message includes an indication that said message corresponds to a predetermined e-mail message type.*”

However, the cited teaching of Noguchi merely teaches that a mail icon informs the user he has unread mail. There is not teaching concerning examining the content of the message to determine whether it corresponds to a particular message type. As amended, claim 1 is readily distinguished from Noguchi and the features directed to parsing, detecting, and distinguishing demarcation are nowhere present in or suggested by the cited art.

In addition to the above, claim 1 recites additional features neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. For example claim 1 recites:

“processing the received e-mail message, in response to determining the received e-mail message corresponds to a one-touch e-mail type, wherein said processing comprises:

- identifying within the received e-mail message a main message and one or more option indicator demarcations, each of said option indicator demarcations corresponding to a user selectable option;

- displaying the main message;

- displaying for each of the one or more option indicator demarcations a corresponding first text which is included within the received e-mail message, wherein said first text describes a corresponding option;

- displaying a second text in response to detecting the selection of a first option which corresponds to a first option indicator demarcation of said option indicator demarcations, wherein the second text is included within the received e-mail message and further describes the first option; and

- automatically generating a reply message to the original sender which identifies the first option, in response to input from a user;

- displaying the received e-mail message without performing said processing, in response to determining the e-mail message does not correspond to a one-touch e-mail type.”

Hence, claim 1 recites features which include describing how a received e-mail is processed differently depending upon the result of the prior recited determination. In the event it is determined the received e-mail corresponds to a one-touch e-mail type of message, the message is processed in a particular manner. Received e-mail messages which do not correspond to a one-touch e-mail message type are processed differently.

In paragraph 8 of the present Office Action, Cleron is broadly cited as teaching numerous features of prior claim 1. However, because none of the numerous features of claim 1 are treated separately in paragraph 8, Applicant must admit that it is very difficult to discern where it is suggested each of the various features are taught by Cleron. Nevertheless, in view of the clarifying amendments Applicant believes the features of claim 1 are readily distinguished from Cleron as well. As noted in Applicant's previous response, Cleron teaches a mechanism whereby a remote email server may provide web pages to a thin client in order to present an *email program interface* to the user.

It is noted that claim 20 recites receiving an e-mail message created by an original sender and then processing the received e-mail message in various ways depending upon the result of an examination of the message content. With respect to receiving e-mail messages, Cleron is directed to providing e-mail functionality to thin clients which lack a local e-mail client. In the system of Cleron, the receiving client includes a browser capable of rendering pages received from a server. A remote server may receive e-mail messages from an original sender, convert them to browser displayable pages (e.g., using HTML), and send the converted pages to the thin client which may then render the received pages. Pages may also be created for the thin client which when rendered have the appearance of an e-mail user interface. (see Cleron, col. 3, cols. 5-7). However, none of these teachings of Cleron teach or suggest the features of claim 20 above. Further, Applicant is not aware of any art which teaches or suggests the features of claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is believed patentable. In addition, because claims 38 and 39 include features similar to that of claim 20, each of claims 38 and 39 are believed patentable as well.

In addition to the above, claim 31 cites features neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Claim 31 recites the creation of an email according to either a one-touch e-mail format or a non-one-touch e-mail format. In the case of the former, particular requirements of the format are outlined.

“wherein if said original sender creates said e-mail message to be a one-touch e-mail type message, said e-mail message is created by said sender according to a one-touch e-mail format, said one-touch e-mail format comprising:
a first demarcation which is usable by a recipient of the e-mail message to
determine whether the e-mail message is a one-touch email message type
or a non-one-touch e-mail message type, wherein the first demarcation
indicates one or more options follow the first demarcation; and
for each of said one or more options:
a begin short option indicator; and
a long option text;
a second demarcation which indicates an end of said one or more options; and
a main message;
wherein if said original sender creates said e-mail message to be a non-one-touch e-mail type message, said e-mail message is not created by said original sender
according to said one-touch e-mail format.”

With respect to e-mail creation in Cleron, Fig. 5 illustrates an e-mail interface rendered for a receiving thin client. A text area 124 is provided wherein a user may type an e-mail message. Fig. 6 illustrates an audio capture panel which may be utilized to capture audio recordings which may be attached to a message. (Cleron, Figs. 5-6, and col. 5). However, the above recited features of claim 31 are nowhere present in Cleron. In addition, the various selectable links illustrated in Cleron are part of the user interface which is rendered for the client and are not created by the user as part of the e-mail message.

Applicant believes the clarifying amendments provided herein address the examiner's concerns noted in paragraphs 31-33 of the present Office Action. In particular, Applicant has more clearly and distinctly defined the claimed invention in a manner which clearly distinguishes over the cited art.

Because each of the dependent claims include the limitations of the independent claims upon which they depend, dependent claims 21-30, 33-37, and 40 are believed patentable for at least the above reasons. In addition to the above, Applicant submits the dependent claims include additional features neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Selected examples of additional features which are not taught by the cited art are provided below.

For example, claim 22 recites “further comprising automatically assigning a number to each of the one or more options included within the received e-mail message, and wherein each of the one or more options are displayed along with a number which has been assigned to the corresponding option” which is absent from the cited art.

Claim 26 recites the additional features “wherein subsequent to displaying the received e-mail message according to the first format on a receiving device of a user, the method further comprises disabling text input by the user.”

Claim 27 recites the additional features “wherein the one-touch email type is created by the original sender according to a first format, said first format including:
a first demarcation which identifies said received e-mail message as a one-touch email message type, wherein the first demarcation indicates one or more options follow the first demarcation; and
for each of said one or more options:
a begin short option indicator;
a long option text; and
an end short option indicator;
a second demarcation which indicates an end of said one or more options; and
a main message.”

Claim 29 recites the additional features “wherein the received e-mail message corresponds to an advertisement for a product or service, and wherein said reply message indicates an interest in the product or service by a user.” The present Office Action suggests this feature is taught by Cleron, col. 2, lines 52-53. However, the cited teaching of Cleron merely states “[t]his invention concerns a browser-based email system and method for capturing audio and video clips within an email message.”

In any event, Applicant submits each of the pending independent claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited art. However, if the examiner is still inclined to

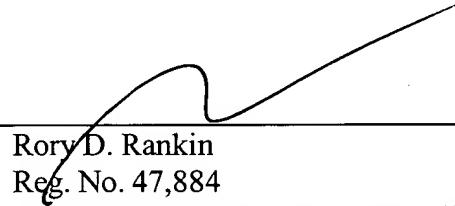
reject the application, Applicant requests and would appreciate the examiner telephoning the below signed representative at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C., Deposit Account No. 501505/5266-05600/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,



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